

Partners in Salmon Friendly Lawns

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Parksville Streamkeepers Society

Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers

Kwialicum Senior Secondary

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About MVIHES

Founded in 1998, the Mid-Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society undertakes salmonid conservation, habitat restoration, and educational activities in the Mid-Island region (principally Lantzville, Nanoose, Parksville, Qualicum Beach, and Bowser). We work closely with area streamkeeper organizations. We are incorporated in B.C. as a non-profit society (S-38587) and registered as a charity with Revenue Canada.

You Can Help

JOIN THE SALMON FRIENDLY LAWN PROGRAM

Your home lawn and Oceanside streams (home to salmon) are connected. If you use too much water or too many chemicals, you may hurt salmon and other wildlife. Try a natural approach to your lawn. You can have a healthy lawn and be a good neighbour, too!

- ✓ Eliminate your use of toxic chemicals and dangerous herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers.
- ✓ Limit your level of lawn watering (no watering from the tap).
- ✓ Practice new and improved methods of lawn care.



Contact Us

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Salmon Friendly Lawns

Pesticides

The major route of entry for pesticides into the body is through the skin.

Humans, pets and wildlife as well as beneficial insects can be poisoned.

Poisons can be tracked into the house where they remain -- trapped in carpet fibres and furniture upholstery.

Pesticides can contaminate streams and groundwater.

There are increased health risks associated with families that use lawn pesticides, especially among pets and children.



Work Together

We are all citizens of a watershed. The problems of water quality and quantity must be solved just as they were created; by the combined actions of all citizens who live and work in the watershed.

Watering

Historical low water flows in many BC watersheds could destroy salmon recovery efforts.

Watering lawns in the summer not only puts our drinking water supply at risk, it increases air pollution from gas powered lawn mowers.

We live in a "Mediterranean" climate zone where there is always a period of drought in late summer and grasses naturally go dormant.

Low water flows decrease fish habitat, cause water temperatures to rise and can impede fish passage to spawning and rearing areas.

Save Water

Up to 40% of our summer water supply is used by lawn watering. By adopting a few new habits, you can help to reduce the amount of water you use, while also decreasing the size of your utility bill!



Solutions

Mow high (5 – 6cm), mow often, and leave the grass clippings. Taller grass means less run-off, and healthier lawns.

Fertilize moderately in September and May. Use a "natural organic" fertilizer.

Improve lawns with aeration and over seeding. Aeration helps rainwater penetrate deeper into the roots where it will do the most good. Remove problem weeds by hand.

Consider alternatives to lawns. Replace traditional lawns with other groundcovers that work just as well with much less care (and waste). A natural landscape retains more water than a lawn.

Let your lawn go "blonde" for the summer. Allow lawns to go dormant - they will green up again in the first fall rains. Enjoy your free time!

Plant native plants. Native plants are beautiful and they need less care and attention.

Redirect Downspouts. Help the winter rains soak into the ground by directing downspouts out onto lawns and flower beds.

Make the Salmon Friendly Pledge.